



GIVING

MOMentum comes to JFNH

By Tracy Richmond

Momentum's founding value is that if you inspire a Jewish mother, you inspire a family. If you inspire enough families, you can inspire a community. Inspire enough communities, and you can change the world. To date, they have brought over 17,000 women into their Global Movement!

Momentum takes these women on a year-long journey, that focuses on twelve of the Jewish values that connect Jewish women, each associated with a specific month—and often a Jewish holiday, as well. The organization provides a professionally designed curriculum guide to help participants put the selected Jewish values into practice, while deepening their engagement with Israel in ways that impact their personal growth, families, and communities.

This is the first trip ever for the state of New Hampshire, and JFNH is thrilled that we were selected to be the partner organization. Our first trip was originally



From left to right. Debbie Depasse, Kate McAdoo Buff, Allyson Guertin, Tracy Richmond, Becky Abrams, Stephanie Lee, Amy Lester, Jennifer Buck, Tara Benson and a guest appearance by Georgia Richmond

scheduled for November 2020, but due to COVID-19, we have delayed the trip by one year. Thankfully, COVID did not delay our connection. We were able to complete the interview/selection process

via Zoom, and we announced our participants in May. We even had one socially distanced gathering over the summer, so our moms could have a chance to meet each other and start to build our commu-

nity connections.

The moms selected had to meet a list of requirements, developed by Momentum, including the fact that all are required to have children living at home under the age of 18. Here are our participants:

- Amy Lester lives in Portsmouth, but her family moved there only six years ago from Long Island. Amy has three children, a daughter out of college, a daughter who is a freshman in college, and a 16-year-old son.
- Tara Benson lives in Bedford, and has two daughters, ages 13 and 16.
- Stephanie Lee recently moved to Bedford from Franconia. She has five children, ranging in age from 7-13.
- Debbie Depasse lives in Londonderry. She has three children ranging in age from 9-14 (two girls and a boy).
- Kate McAdoo Buff lives in Bedford. She has a son aged nine, and a daughter aged 11.
- Jennifer Buck lives in Merrimack, and has two daughters, ages five and seven.

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By Ken Litvack

As we kick off the campaign, and ask for your continued support, I wanted to repeat a portion of my talk at the annual meeting, for many of our members who were not able to join us that day.

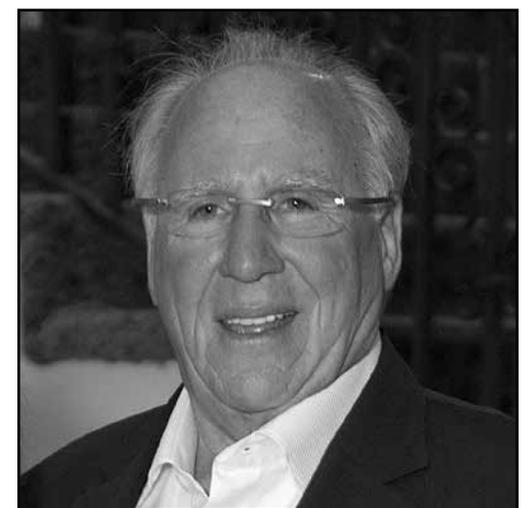
In brief, we all have many things in our lives to admire, and to be thankful for. These include our families, our accomplishments, and of course, our commitment to Judaism. What ignites all of us to commit, to work, and to donate to organizations like ours, is that our mutual efforts help us continue—and increase—our Outreach programs. It lets us help our seniors, support our amazing Film Festival, our wonderful

Building the Future

Shlichah program, as well as our continued fight against antisemitism. For me, I'm thankful for all the above, and more.

One of my main concerns, going forward, is the recent rise in antisemitism and hate crimes. Just last month, someone was arrested for painting swastikas on the JFK building in Boston. During the summer, antisemitic and prejudiced users on Twitter posted about what they called #JewishPrivilege, targeting Jewish individuals. When will it end? Never.

Our work is very important, and as we move into the future, I personally I want to thank you for your commitment in helping our Federation strive forward in the years ahead. Keep our torch burning.



Ken Litvack

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CONGREGATIONS

JRF: Jewish Reconstructionist Federation **URJ:** Union for Reform Judaism
USCJ: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

Dena Glasgow (Rabbinic Intern)
5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 886-1633
www.betenu.org
Services: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 PM

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum
39 Strawberry Hill Road
PO Box 395, Bethlehem
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian
(603) 869-5465
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org
davegoldstone1@gmail.com
Services: Contact for Date/Time Info
President Dave Goldstone - (516) 592-1462
or Eileen Regen - (603) 823-7711
Weekly Services: July through Simchat Torah
Friday: 6:30 PM; Saturday: 10 AM

CLAREMONT

TEMPLE MEYER DAVID

25 Putnam Street, Claremont
Conservative
(603) 417-4351
Services: Generally the second Friday of the month, 6:15 PM, April to November.

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

Rabbi Robin Nafshi
67 Broadway, Concord
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 228-8581
www.tbjconcord.org
office@tbjconcord.org
Services: Friday night - 7 PM
Saturday morning - 9:30 AM

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Peter Levy
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM
Please check the website for the Shabbat Morning schedule

DURHAM

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

Rabbi Berel Slavaticki
72-1 Main Street, Durham
(603) 205-6598
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com
www.JewishSeacoast.com

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

Rabbi Moshe Gray
19 Allen Street, Hanover
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 643-9821
www.dartmouthchabad.com
chabad@dartmouth.edu
Services: Friday Evening Shabbat services and Dinner
Shabbat morning services
Call for times

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Mark Melamut
Roth Center for Jewish Life
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover
Nondenominational, Unaffiliated
(603) 646-0460
www.uvjc.org
office@uvjc.org
Services: Friday night Shabbat service at 6 PM
Saturday morning Shabbat service at 10 AM

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF
(603) 352-6747
www.keenesynagogue.org
rabbi.ahavas.achim@gmail.com
secretary.ahavas.achim@gmail.com
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7 PM
Monthly Shabbat morning services at 10 AM
Check the website for time variations

LAGONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Dan Danson
210 Court Street, Laconia
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 524-7044
www.tbinh.org
Services: Every other Friday night at 7:30 PM

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

Rabbi Levi Krinsky
1234 River Rd., Manchester
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 647-0204
www.Lubavitchnh.com
rabbi@lubavitchnh.com
Services: Shabbat Services
Saturday morning at 9:30 AM
Sunday morning minyan at 9 AM

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson
152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 669-5650
www.taynh.org
templeadathy@comcast.net
Services: Shabbat services the first Friday of the month at 6 PM
All other Friday nights at 7 PM with some exceptions.
Alternating Shabbat services or Torah study Saturday mornings at 10 AM

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelnh.org
Services: Fridays at 6 PM
Saturday at 9:30 AM
Minyans: Mon.-Fri. 7 AM. Call Stephen Singer 603-774-4048 for info.

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
4 Raymond Street, Nashua
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 883-8184
www.tbanashua.org
rabbi@tbanashua.org
office@tbanashua.org
Services: Friday services 8:00 p.m., Shabbat Alive! first Friday of the month 6:30 p.m., online Saturday service 10 am, evening services daily at 7:30 p.m. except Saturday 45 minutes after sunset.

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

Hazzan Marlena Fuerstman
PO Box 474, Bartlett
(978) 853-4900
harlavancommunity@gmail.com
Services: Wed. mornings 9 AM online via Zoom
Enter meeting ID <https://zoom.us/j/381930069>
Holiday service times, locations TBA

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Kaya Stern-Kaufman
200 State Street, Portsmouth
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 436-5301
www.templeisraelnh.org
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org
Services: Friday, 6:15 PM
Saturday, 9:30 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-F preschool.

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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 10th of the month before publication. There are no January or June issues. All items, including calendar events, for the December-January or May-June newspaper must be submitted by Nov. 10 or April 10, respectively.

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

To submit Calendar items for the print and online JFNH Calendar and E-News, go to <https://jewishnh.org/community-calendar>, click the red "Suggest an Event" button, then fill in the form with your event information.

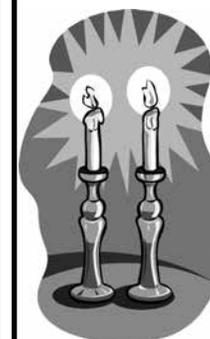
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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



October 2	6:06 PM
October 9	5:54 PM
October 16	5:43 PM
October 23	5:32 PM
October 30	5:22 PM

Why I Give

By Judith Jolton

To me, Jewish Federation is all about Tzedakah: the giving of time, commitment, and heart, to enrich and embolden our Jewish community. For 54 years, 41 of them in New Hampshire, I have not only watched, but actively participated in seeing Federation establish our Shlichah program, the PJ Library, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, Momentum, and Seniors Forever Young, which gives senior citizens the opportunity to attend



Judith Jolton

Jewish programming.

Federation provides programming grants to our local temples, as well as helping support religious schools. In addition, it is also a source of information, through the Jewish Reporter, and community programs, including being involved with the HR1135 Bill which was passed this year, requiring Holocaust education in all New Hampshire schools.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, Federation has provided social services to those in need. However, the pandemic has also dramatically impacted Federation's reach. People cannot come to our office. Our shlichah, Avia, who is in her second year here, is unable to visit com-

munities. Children aren't able to use the PJ Library, and the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival had to be moved online.

In lieu of all that, Federation continues to move forward. But to do so, it requires the help of the entire Jewish community. Ken Litvack, Tracy Richmond, and I are excited to be co-chairing our fundraising campaign this year, and are looking to everyone's support on Super Sunday. If you have previously given, I thank you, and I ask that you continue your support. If you haven't, I hope that you can see the good we are doing, and that you want to help.

The more we put into Federation, financially and personally, the more we will get out of it.

MOMentum continued from page 1

- Becky Abrams lives in Londonderry and has two children. Her daughter is 11 and her son is eight.
- Allyson Guertin lives in Bow, and is our staff liaison/community leader. Allyson has one son, who is eight years old.
- Tracy Richmond is our community leader. She lives in Bedford, and has two sons, ages 15 and 17.

We look forward to sharing our journey with the members of the New Hampshire Jewish community, and will provide updates along the way, both on the JFNH Facebook page and here in the Reporter.

Your Federation at Work

Upcoming Workshops on Antisemitism And The Holocaust/Genocide Education Act For Students, Parents, and Teachers

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

We hope you will join us for one or both of these programs. Please register with Allyson Guertin, JFNH Director of Outreach and Engagement, at Allyson.Guertin@jewishnh.org. The programs are free and virtual, but advance registration is required.

Sunday, October 25, 2020, 2:00-3:30 p.m.: "Words to Action" program for high-schoolers. The Anti-Defamation League's "Words to Action" is an interactive education program designed to empower and equip students with constructive and effective responses to combat antisemitism and anti-Israel bias. Last year's program was extraordinary. College freshman Mia Fishman attended last year's program as a high school senior and went on to testify before the New Hampshire state legislature in support of HB 1135, the Holocaust and Genocide Education Act. Asked about the value of this program, Mia commented, "your voice can make a difference and a change in the world." We know that students confront antisemitism in school. Help them manage the macro-and micro-aggressions with experts in the field.

Sunday, November 8, 2020, 4:00-5:30 p.m.: Holocaust/Genocide Education 603 – An Introduction to the Requirements of NH's New Holocaust and Genocide Edu-

cation Act. This 1-1/2-hour program will introduce the audience to the outcome of HB 1135, signed into law on July 23, 2020, and provide some information on meeting its demands. HB 1135 amended RSA 193-E:2, IV, New Hampshire's criteria for an adequate education, mandating that students are provided with Holocaust and genocide education, in addition to "knowledge of civics and government, economics, geography, and history," to enable them "participate in the democratic process and to make informed choices as responsible citizens." The statute took effect on September 21, 2020, and this program is designed to give the audience helpful information on how its mandates can be accomplished, even before the Commission created with the Act gets to work on creating a set of best practices for teaching the subject matter. The November 8th program will include Jesse Tannetta, Operations and Outreach Manager, Echoes & Reflections (a partnership of the ADL, the USC Shoah Foundation, and Yad Vashem); Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach, Keene State College's Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; and Ashley Harbel, a Sanborn High School teacher who has taught Holocaust studies and has been appointed to serve on the Commission.

We look forward to seeing you.

Community

WORDStoACTION

Empowering Students to Address Antisemitism

Join us at this interactive workshop to learn about antisemitism.

Increase your understanding, explore effective resources and learn how to strategically respond.



UNDERSTAND. RESPOND.

This program offers tools to strengthen student capacity and build confidence to address antisemitism.

Sunday, October 25th
2:00pm

Zoom link will be provided following registration

Register here (grades 9-12):
<https://forms.gle/1Bu1rLGoHi94P5G7A>
or by calling the JFNH office at 603.627.7679



ADL is a leading anti-hate organization. Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, its timeless mission is to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. • adl.org



To submit Calendar items for the print and online JFNH Calendar and E-News, go to <https://jewishnh.org/community-calendar>, click the red "Suggest an Event" button, then fill in the form with your event information.

Friday, October 2

Temple Beth Abraham Pizza in the Hut
5PM – 7PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
Celebrate Sukkot with a fall craft, Sukkah decoration making, and pizza in the sukkah followed by a "Shabbat Alive" service (6:15 pm) at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. To register: www.tbanashua.org/event/pizza-in-the-hut or contact Sarit@tbanashua.org

Saturday, October 3

Temple Beth Abraham Yedidim Backyard Havdalah Event
5PM – 7PM, address will be provided upon registration
Join us for a Yedidim (families with children ages 3-10) backyard Havdalah event (weather permitting). Bring your masks and food for your family's consumption (no potluck due to health and safety guidelines). Social distancing will be followed. Register at www.tbanashua.org/yedidim or contact Sarit@tbanashua.org

Wednesday, October 7

Seniors Forever Young Virtual Fall Speaker Series
11AM, Zoom
In October we will welcome historian Maddie Beihl from Strawberry Banke. Maddie will share the genealogical history of the Shapiro family, show images and primary source documents. The Shapiro House at Strawberry Banke was the home from 1909 to 1928 of Abraham and Sarah Shapiro, Russian Jewish immigrants, and their American-born daughter Mollie. Interpreted to 1919, the home shows how the Shapiros sought to balance their strong cultural identity with new opportunities in America. While Shapiro House is specifically about the Russian Jewish experience, it also reflects the early 20th-century multi-ethnic community at Puddle Dock, when half of its 600 residents were foreign-born. This program is 45 - 60 minutes and includes an opportunity for Q&A. Pre-registration is required by calling 603-627-7679 or emailing info@jewishnh.org. All programs through our Virtual Speaker Series will be held on Zoom and the link will be given with your registration. This series is FREE but donations to Seniors Forever Young is appreciated.

See what's happening in the community at www.jewishnh.org



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Thursday, October 15

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Spotlight on Israel Film Series Presented by the Israel Engagement and Education Committee Sustainable Nation

Director: Micah Smith
Documentary, 2019, Israel
60 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles
A compelling documentary that follows three individuals who are bringing innovative and sustainable water solutions developed in Israel to an increasingly thirsty planet.

The "screening window" begins at 6:00 PM on Thursday and will be available to watch at your convenience for 72 hours, until 6:00 PM the following Sunday.

By 4:00 PM on each screening Thursday you will receive, at this email address, a link to that day's film and an invitation to the Zoom event.

Sunday, October 18

Sustainable Nation post film discussion with Producer/Writer, Rebecca Shore
2PM, Zoom

The "screening window" begins at 6:00 PM on Thursday and will be available to watch at your convenience for 72 hours, until 6:00 PM the following Sunday.

By 4:00 PM on each screening Thursday you will receive, at this email address, a link to that day's film and an invitation to the Zoom event.

Sunday, October 25

ADL Presents Words to Action
2M, Via Zoom

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is excited to welcome the ADL back for Words to Action. This program is approximately 1 1/2 hours and is for students in High School (Grades 9-12). The program is designed to help students increase their understanding of antisemitism and the way it manifests itself, including antisemitism that is fueled by anti-Israel sentiment; increase their awareness of incidents of antisemitism in their environment; improve their ability to address specific incidents of antisemitism and/or anti-Israel bias and to select appropriate responses; develop and use a variety of preventive and reactive responses to challenge incidents of antisemitism and/or anti-Israel bias; increase their ability to apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to address antisemitism and anti-Israel bias; and enhance their leadership skills by developing a willingness, motivation and commitment to take personal action against antisemitism. Whole group and break out rooms will be used to allow students the opportunity to share and discuss as well as reflect.

This program is for the student only. Parent programming will be announced soon!
This will be a virtual program run on Zoom - You will receive the link and password once we receive your registration.

To register please visit <https://forms.gle/Lazi2hNMdyUNKwqL9> or call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679

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Back in New Hampshire

I'm back in New Hampshire! Last time I wrote I was still in Israel. I can't believe how the time is flying by. I arrived in NH and quarantined for 14 days in my apartment, so I spent a lot of time thinking what this special year is going to look like. How can I bring Israel in the best possible way? How can I reach out to you as much as I can?

I tried to think out of the box, and with Allyson's help, we came up with some great ideas that I hope you all will like! I am really looking forward to this coming year.

The month of Elul is a great time to think about the previous year and reflect on our deeds and the decisions we made. I love to begin every new year this way because it makes me realize new things and get new insights about every aspect of my everyday life.

The Holidays are going to be very different for all of us, this year. For me here in New Hampshire, and for my family in Israel. It really made me think about the value of Mishpacha (Family) and Kehila (Community) because even just to know that all of us are celebrating together, around the world, makes me feel connected and surrounded with love.

Avia Sagron

JFNH Shlichah



Now, more than ever, the real boundaries between all of us almost don't exist, and my home here and my home in Israel are united!

As with every year, I want to ask Shlichah (Forgiveness) from anyone I may have offended this past year. It was never intentional. During this opportunity, I also want to thank each one of you, for this past year. The warm welcome I received when I first arrived in NH, and the amazing people I met during the year—thank you for the unbelievably interesting conversations, and for teaching me new things every day. Thank you for loving Israel, and for your appreciation. I am a very lucky Shlichah.

I wish you all Chag Samech, and Shana Tova U'Metuka!!

May all your wishes for this coming year come true. I already know what mine are.

Shana Tova!

Shana tova! Dwelling comfortably outside in our sukkot, we can now look back to just a couple weeks ago and affirm what an unprecedented New Year it is! There's something about the High Holidays that puts our words front and center on our radar. Perhaps it's the pages and pages (and pages) of spiritually loaded words we've been praying. Or, maybe it's the meaningful melodies sung to the myriad of words, confessions and commitments. Or this year, the greetings and words that we've shared with family, friends and community over Zoom. Sitting in our sukkot, we can feel that the magnetic force of the Jewish new year has pulled us in to begin anew.

Even now, at the cusp of the new year, we are invited to continue to focus on our words and actions. What words are still left unsaid? What commitments are still not firm? Have we completed our work of seeking forgiveness and forgiving others? This is all a process. Though we experienced the "gates of repentance" closing on Yom Kippur, tradition

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Mark Melamut
Kol Ha'Emek Upper Valley Jewish Community

asserts that they remain open until the very end of Sukkot (or some say, all the time.) With this in mind, I share a favorite Jewish folktale about someone who sought forgiveness for his words. Perhaps you've heard this one?

A seeker went to the wise man's home, whom he had not spoken so kindly about, to ask for forgiveness. The wise man said he'd forgive him on one condition: that he go home, take a feather pillow from his house, cut it up, and scatter the feathers to the wind. After he had done so, he was to return to the wise man's house. Though puzzled by this strange request, the seeker was happy to be let off with so easy a penance. He quickly cut up the pillow, scattered the

feathers, and returned to the house. "Am I now forgiven?" he asked. "Just one more thing," the wise man said. "Go now and gather up all the feathers." "But that's impossible, the wind has already scattered them," the seeker replied. "Precisely," the wise man answered. "Though you seek to correct the words that you've spoken, it's as impossible to repair the damage done by them as it is to recover all the feathers."

Sometimes the damage, small or large, has been done and it feels impossible to

make amends. Just like recovering all the feathers, it seems far-fetched. Of course, we could declare, "Well forget it then, what's the use." But, our words are "power tools," yielding unbelievable power. Indeed, we may not recover all the feathers or be able to repair or correct all the words misspoken. But, if we continue to seek out opportunities to make amends to the best of our ability, even now after the High Holidays, then at least we can gather up and repair some of them. It's never too late.

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2020 Campaign Honor Roll

In an extraordinary and challenging year, the community came together to support JFNH's mission and programs. We are grateful to all who have given so generously and enabled us to continue fighting anti-Semitism, advocating for Holocaust education, sharing Jewish news and cultural events, delivering books and programs to NH's children, sharing Jewish films, supporting our Israeli Emissary (Shlichah) program, sending children to Jewish summer camp, offering social services to community members in need, and so much more, even when the office doors had to close. We thank those who contributed to our annual campaign and those who contributed to programming and outreach throughout the year. You all deserve a spot on the JFNH Honor Roll.

*This list should not be used for purposes of calculating tax deductions. Please contact the JFNH office for accurate tax information.

\$30,000+

Anonymous
The Singer Family

\$5,000+

Rick and Jan Cohen
Saul Greenspan z"l and Ethel Greenspan z"l
Family Foundation
Patricia Kalik
Gary and Rochelle Lindner
Ken and Bertha Litvack

\$2,000+

Howard and Joan Brodsky
Tiffany and Daniel Cohen
Luis and Pamela Englander
Ross and Jennifer Fishbein
Louis Fink and Pamela Grich
Eileen Beckhardt Freedman and Ben Freedman z"l
Leslie Mildenberg and Ida Stanger Mildenberg
Ido Preis and Julia Kay Preis
Marc Rubenson
Stephen and Lillian Singer

\$1,500+

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Rabbi Beth D. Davidson
Gross Family Foundation
Jonathan Greenblatt and Sarit Itenberg
Oleg Urim & Ilana Itenberg
Tovy Kamine
Jay and Sue Niederman
Norri Oberlander
Tracy and Larry Richmond
Harry and Barbara Shepler
Rick Sirvint and Roberta Gordenstein

\$1,000+

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Robert and Deborah Goldstein
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Norm and Andy Kushner
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Paul Rothman and Emily McEntee
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Michael and Sheila Satzow
Mark and Susan Zankel

\$500-\$749

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Jeffrey and Shirley Ginn
Samuel and Miriam Goldman
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September 10, 2020 meeting of group exploring Middle East studies in junior high school and high school. On top from left to right: Linda Leventhal McGrath, Dina Michael Chaitowitz (JFNHJ Board); second row: Pat Gross Kalik (Cochair, JFNH Film Festival), Michael Miller; bottom row: Sarit Itenberg (JFNH Board chairperson) and Jonathan Greenblatt.

What Are Schools Teaching Your Children About Israel? We Need Your Help!

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

What is your children's school teaching them about Israel?

We have formed a group to promote factual source material on Israel, Judaism, and the Middle East in our schools. The group decided to meet after discovering that some problematic material, obtained from an opinion media site, was disseminated to students as part of a lesson on the conflict in the Middle East.

We need your help to monitor the information presented to our children and grandchildren on this topic. If you encounter material that you think is factually incorrect or possibly antisemitic, or if you are unsure, please contact Dina Michael Chaitowitz at dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com.

We are also interested in discovering those schools that you feel are doing a good job in teaching this subject matter. Thank you for your help.

Help Wanted!

Do you live in Keene, Laconia, Bethlehem, Hanover, or another NH community and want to help produce the Jewish Reporter?

We are looking for people all over the state who are interested in writing about their local Jewish community.

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

Temple Israel Manchester Opens a Book Club

By Benay Birch

In the early spring of this year, Temple Israel of Manchester, NH started a Book Club for our Shul. What a joy it has been to meet once a month via Zoom to discuss books we have read. We hope to continue our book club for years to come.

Our reading selections are always by Jewish authors, or have a Jewish theme. The choice of books encompass all reading genres, for example: fiction, non-fiction, history, humor, autobiographical, and even studies of Jewish practices, law, and the Torah. To date we have read: *An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic* by Daniel Mendelsohn, *Turbulent Souls* by Stephen Dubner, and *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* by Mordechai Richler.

These last three months we read and discussed:

- *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro, an autobiography of how Dani discovered her father wasn't her biological father. Ms. Shapiro's book told how she discovered this fact and she questioned her Jewish identity.
- *The Book of Order*, by our own Michael Davidow, enabled us to have the

author join our Zoom meeting to have a lively discussion of his book, which detailed how the various sections of Boston developed their Jewish neighborhoods. Mr. Davidow weaved factual Jewish history through a fictional story about a woman dealing with her father's death.

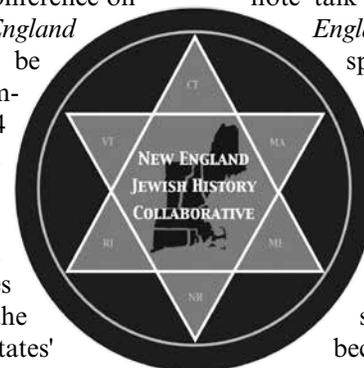
- Rabbi Jeremy Sczcepanski suggested we read *This Is Real And You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days Of Awe As A Journey Of Transformation*, by Rabbi Alan Lew. Rabbi Jeremy hosted our Zoom chat as we discussed this powerful book, right as the High Holidays approached. Personally, this is a book I know I will read every year before the holidays, as Rabbi Lew encourages and guides you to look inside yourself, particularly as we travel through the days leading to the High Holidays, and examine our life.
- On September 9th, we will be discussing *My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Sweeper*, authored by Meir Shalev, a humorous family memoir.

We are always looking for book recommendations. Please send us your suggestions, via email, to office@templeisraelmht.org. Thank you!

Save the Date: The New England Jewish Experience Conference

By Stephen Soreff, MD

The first of its kind conference on the topic *The New England Jewish Experience* will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2020, from 2 to 4 PM, via Zoom. It will address the question—is there a unique New England identity? It will look at the differences and commonalities of the six New England states' unique Jewish histories. It is hosted by The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, and registration will be required. The Conference opens with



Michael Hoberman, Professor, Fitchburg State College delivering the keynote talk on *An Overview of New England Jewish History*. Then, spokespersons from each state will show how their state fits into the Jewish New England mosaic. It closes with the launching of the New England Jewish History Collaborative (NEJHC) website. More details will soon become available. For more information contact the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire representative, Stephen Soreff, MD at email soreffs15@aol.com.

See what's happening in the community at www.jewishnh.org

In the Community

TAY Brotherhood: Oh, What a Year!

The scheduled Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Annual Meeting/BBQ on June 2, 2020 turned into a virtual one with at home BBQ foods this year, and the program featured “Zooming” to and from the homes of attendees, a necessary change as we continue to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. But an apt slogan for us throughout the years has been “The beat goes on!” and so we play on in that spirit.

MC and co-President David Penchansky led the way. Rabbi Beth Davidson opened the program with a prayerful discussion about our present health and racial disparity issues. Eagle Scout Ryan Rosenberg led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We then heard and saw stirring videos of both our National Anthem and Hatikvah. This was followed by Manchester’s Justin Cohn, who provided musical entertainment for the audience with voice and guitar from his home studio.

It was then on to the Brotherhood Year in Review:

“Real-time” events began with TAY Sukkah Building on October 13, 2019. This was followed by a wonderful Fall Breakfast program on November 3, featuring city planner Susan Silberberg’s presentation on “The Manchester Millyard-Past, Present, Future”. On December 15 we hosted the TAY Chanukah Party. The Christmas Mitzvah Program on December 24 and 25 saw us taking charge of the information desks at Elliot Hospital and Catholic Medical Center and serving meals at New Horizons Soup Kitchen on both those days, delivering luncheon platters to Manchester and Bedford Police and Fire Stations and delivering Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day, and running the Bingo game at the Manchester VA Hospital on Christmas night. As usual, over 100 volunteers participate in this long-standing Mitzvah program. We served a farewell breakfast on Sunday morning, February 9, 2020 at the conclusion of the MANTY Winter Wonderland. It turned out that the Purim Party on March 8 was the last non-virtual event for the year as the pandemic had set in.

Because of COVID-19 we had to cancel our traditional Spring Dinner Concert scheduled for May 7 and our Spring Breakfast on May 17, which was to be a presentation on Manchester benefactor Edward Chase. We “Zoomed” the Memorial Day Service at Manchester Hebrew Cemetery on May 25, which was held after American flags had been placed one week before at the graves of 135 veterans buried there. The upcoming TAY Brotherhood-Sisterhood Service on



A surprise home presentation of the 2020 TAY Man of the Year Award to Bob Bersak (Toby was in on the plan) by Jonathan Baron, Rabbi Beth Davidson, Sol Rockenmacher and photographer David Rosenzweig.

June 2 was to be a virtual one organized by Steve Short and Alan Kaplan.

After the Year in Review, Steve Short led us in a toast to Brothers who had passed over the past year. We voted on having the present slate of officers stay on

for the time being: Co-Presidents David Penchansky and Sol Rockenmacher, Vice President Joel Gordon, Secretary Mark Granoff, Treasurer David Rosenzweig. We presented a cash award to Eagle Scout Ryan Rosenberg to help fund his Boy Scout badge project to provide storage for the Music Department at Manchester West High School.

The wrap up for the evening was the awarding of this year’s Man of the Year Award. The award had been presented in “novel” fashion to a surprised Bob Bersak, outgoing President of TAY, at his home in Bedford 8 days previously. The citation reads:

To a man who has served his country and his community-with honor and distinction

Who leads by example by being level-headed and fair and who steps up to a challenge when called upon

Who has been a tower of strength during a time of national emergency,

demonstrating steady leadership with grace under pressure

Whose humanity is evidenced by his self-effacing good humor, modesty and love of family

This is always a well-attended and enjoyable event, and we wished it could have been in “real-life,” but it was not to be this year. Yet, we were still able to show that the Brotherhood beat continues to go on. Our banner states: Service, Community, Fellowship. We continue to follow that mantra, come you-know-what or high water...or even COVID-19.

And if you are wondering whether there will be a Candidates Breakfast Forum this year...Yes, there will be a Zoomed one on Sunday, October 18 at 10am, with candidates for Governor, US Senate, US First Congressional District. As they used to say in radio days of yore, “Stay tuned for further developments.”

From your TAY Brotherhood, “Be safe and be well.”

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Temple Beth Abraham Forms Tzedek Committee

By Fern Greenberg Blood

Temple Beth Abraham (TBA) of Nashua has reinvigorated its Tzedek Committee. Its current mission is to provide opportunities for learning, dialogue, and action on social justice issues, through a Jewish lens, in order to fulfill the mitzvah of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Our commitment to the work of *tzedek* (justice) is covenantal and rooted in a Torah of *b'tzelem elohim* — that we are all made in the image of God — and *chesed* (compassion for each other).

Spurred by recent events of racial and social injustice, TBA is renewing its efforts to address injustice through education, introspection and action. Our recent Justice in July program specifically addressed issues of racial discrimination. Modeled upon the Justice in June resource by Bryanna Wallace and Autumn Gupta (justiceinjune.org), the weekly series offered Zoom-based discussions for congregants around selected readings, films, videos and podcasts. For example, the group reflected upon a sermon by Rabbi Jen Gubitz, Temple Israel of Boston, on Confronting Internalized Racism, crafted for the double portion Acharai Mot – Kedoshim, which inspired a lively and illuminating discussion.

In early September, the Tzedek Committee sponsored an Implicit Bias Workshop, co-presented by Amy Parece-Grogan M.Ed., Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator at the NH Office of Health Equity, and Michelle Rosenthal. The program introduced the

concept of implicit bias. Participants defined bias, prejudice, and discrimination, and learned how implicit bias differs. Attendees explored and uncovered some of their own implicit biases. The workshop concluded with a discussion around debiasing strategies for individuals and organizations. If you or your organization is interested in this program, please contact Ms. Parece-Grogan at Amy.Parece-Grogan@dhhs.nh.gov.

A Conversation on Race will be held in October with facilitators from the Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP), the largest grassroots community organizing effort in New Hampshire comprised of religious congregations, community groups, labor organizations and individuals united in concern for economic and social justice. This program is a structured conversation about racial identities and how they shape our lives and relationships. Many of us have questions we don't even know how to ask. In this structured conversation, GSOP's multi-racial team shares basic concepts about racism and leads groups through discussions based on where people in the room are starting. For more information see GSOP's website here: <http://granitestateorganizing.org/what-we-do/>.

The Temple Beth Abraham Tzedek Committee will continue to host a variety of educational programming in various formats on social justice issues. We hope this will inspire other organizations and individuals to explore these issues as well. For more information, please contact us at tzedek@tbanashua.org.

Etz Hayim Synagogue October Holiday Registration and Schedule

Etz Hayim will be conducting services via Zoom this year. All are welcome, including non-members. Those who wish to participate should please contact our office at office@etzhayim.org to get a Zoom link for any of the services listed below. When using the Zoom link, please use your real name so we will be able to identify you.

These are our October holiday services:

- Fri., Oct. 2, 7:15 PM, Erev Sukkot

- Sat., Oct. 3, 9:30 AM, Sukkot
- Sat., Oct. 10, 9:30 AM, Yizkor/Shabbat Services
- Sun., Oct 11, 7:15 PM, Simchat Torah

We look forward to seeing you and engaging in meaningful prayer as we begin another year. For more information, please contact us at office@etzhayim.org or call 603-432-0004. Etz Hayim is located at 1 1/2 Hood Road in Derry, NH.

Fall Recipe: Vegan Creamy Tomato Basil Soup

By Ashley Barajas

Something about sweater weather makes me crave a nice, soothing bowl of soup. Don't get me wrong, I'll have soup any day of the year, but there's something so comforting about warm soup on a chilly day. There is this French bistro in the south, called La Madeleine, that makes such an amazing tomato soup, but since I'm lactose intolerant, I was determined to recreate a dairy-free version. This will pair nicely with a classic grilled cheese sandwich, or a nice chicken meal, while still being kosher.

Here is the recipe:

- 4 cups fresh tomatoes, cored, peeled, and chopped (8 - 10), or 4 cups canned whole tomatoes crushed
- 2 cups tomato juice
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 12 - 14 fresh basil leaves (keep some for garnish if desired)
- 2 - 3 cups of full fat canned coconut milk refrigerated overnight

- 1/4 lb non-dairy "butter"
- Salt
- 1/4 tsp cracked black pepper
- Lemon juice (optional)

Step 1: Combine tomatoes, juice and/or stock in saucepan and simmer for 30 minutes.

Step 2: Puree contents of saucepan with basil leaves in food processor, blender or use immersion blender in saucepan if available.

Step 3: Open cans of coconut milk and spoon out all the full fat coconut cream that should have solidified and risen to the top of the can, until you have about 1 cup of the cream.

Step 4: Return soup contents to pan (unless using an immersion blender) and add coconut cream and vegan butter while stirring over low heat until well blended.

Step 5: Serve with an optional squeeze of lemon and/or basil garnish.

*Adapted from recipe by Beverly Bundy of the Forth Worth Star-Telegram



The women of Temple B'nai Israel continue to connect on a regular basis while being social distanced.



Stu Needleman and Gary Broom were the driving forces behind the installation of new equipment in the Temple B'nai Israel sanctuary which will allow the streaming of services from the synagogue. The technology will allow Rabbi Dan Danson and Cantorial Soloist, Melody Funk, to offer Shabbat and High Holiday services in this safer way, while still allowing the congregation into the sanctuary (if only virtually). We pray we will be able to be together again sometime soon, but believe this new technology will allow more of our congregants the flexibility to access to our services in bad weather, ill health, or simply at the end of a long day without time to make the drive.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Announces “Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff” Program for Fall of 2020 and 2021

By Stephen Soreff, MD

The Etz Hayim Synagogue’s Adult Continuing Education Department is pleased to announce its Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff Program for the fall of 2020, going into early 2021, Hebrew Calendar 5781. These programs will be on Zoom. To get the Zoom link for each talk, please email office@etzhayim.org/



Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry, NH

• **October 15, 2020, Thursday, 7 PM:** “Joy and the Loud Cars” A Poetry Reading. On Rosh HaShanah—Yom Teurah or the “Day of Shouting”—we raise a loud noise by blowing the shofar. Inspired by the late David Davis, author of *The Joy Poems*, poets Michael Cantor, Robert Crawford, Midge Goldberg, Alfred Nicol, Kyle Potvin, and Deborah Warren will explore the idea of finding joy in the world around them, including in loud cars and mud puddles. All the poets have published books:

Cantor's *Furusato*, Crawford's *The Empty Chair*, Goldberg for *Snowman's Code*, Nicol's *Winter Light*, Potvin's *Loosen*, and Warren's *Dream with Flowers and Bowl of Fruit*. The reading will be followed by an open mic.

• **November 1, 2020, Sunday, 10 AM:** *How to Transition to a Healthy, Plant-Based Lifestyle* presented by David Riese. David Riese is an Aerospace Engineer with a keen interest in how diet and lifestyle affects health. After seeing Dr. Joel

Fuhrman’s “Eat to Live” program on PBS ten years ago, he read the book and started following the program. He immediately experienced weight loss and improved energy and vitality and has been following the plant-based lifestyle ever since. Mr. Riese will share his experiences and suggest the best resources and tips to get started on this wonderful, health-promoting lifestyle.

• **November 19, 2020, Thursday, 7 PM:** *The Emerging Next Normal*, presented by Wayne Kurtzman. This session looks at how technology adoption and culture changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Led by market intelligence analyst and adjunct educator Wayne Kurtzman, this will help you make sense of the emerging Future of Work, what is changing, and what comes next for work, play and education, as well as how you can chart your own path. Wayne Kurtzman is the Research Director, IDC.

• **December 10, 2020, Thursday, 7 PM:** *A Priest and a Rabbi Zoomed into a Bar* Presented by Rev Ray Bonin and Rabbi Peter Levy. Reverend Ray Bonin, Rector of the Church of the Transfiguration and Rabbi Peter, the Rabbi at Etz Hayim Synagogue will discuss their faiths' relationships to the rest of the world in the past and in the present—and what each faith offers, as you will prepare for and understand the future.

• **January 14, 2021, Thursday, 7 PM:** *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II*. A PBS Film hosted by the Lappin Foundation. Discover the story of the 550,000 brave Jewish Americans who served in World War II.

The Adult Continuing Education Department of Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 ½ Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038 has developed and sponsored these programs. For more information about them, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com, or 603-895-6120.



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Recap of Summer Series, and a Preview of the 2021 NH Jewish Film Festival

By Zach Camenker,
NH JFF Committee Member

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the closure of many arts institutions, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival hosted a successful virtual summer series. The event culminated on Sunday, August 30, with a post-film discussion on *Paris Song*, featuring film director Jeff Vespa.

With around 500 registrations, the summer series was extremely popular and well-received. Although only five of the 12 feature films selected for the 2020 Festival—originally supposed to be held in late March—were offered to audiences, a wide variety of genres was available for all ages.

The Festival opened on July 9 with the Israeli romantic comedy, *Love in Sus-*



penders. This was adorable piece about finding love later in life.

It continued two weeks later with *My Name is Sara*, a film centered around a girl fleeing the Holocaust and posing as a Christian after her entire family was killed. Following the screening of *My*



Director Jeff Vespa

Name is Sara, participants had the opportunity to attend a post-film discussion on Zoom with the screenwriter, David Himmelstein. The moderator for this discussion was Film Festival Steering Committee Member Barrie Paster.

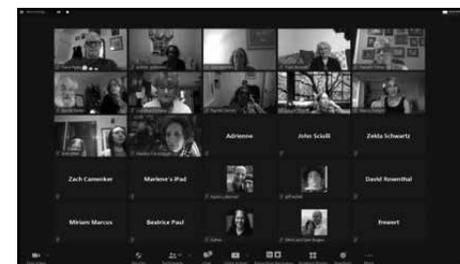
The third film shown in the series was a documentary. *Futures Past* tells the story of Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Chairman Emeritus Leo Melamed, a Holocaust survivor and pioneer in open outcry trading, through the eyes of his son, filmmaker Jordan Melamed. This time, I had the good fortune to moderate the post-film discussion with Jordan, whose earlier 2001 film *Manic* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and launched the careers of Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel.

Two weeks later, the series continued with another Israeli film, this time a drama, called *Shooting Life*. This movie told the story of a high school film teacher who urged his students to capture images of their daily lives for their film class. A film with a largely teenage cast, *Shooting Life* was a hit with our Young Professional Screening Group.

The final film in the series was the aforementioned *Paris Song*, which closed the series with a post-film discussion featuring the film's director, Jeff Vespa, and facilitation from Film Festival Committee Member Mark Bilech. *Paris Song* tells the story of Amre Kashaubayev, a Kazakh singer who performed in the Paris Expo in 1925, and met big names like Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Man Ray, and Josephine Baker along the way. This highly unique piece provided audiences with a story they had likely never heard before.



Film Festival Committee Member Mark Bilech



Some of the 67 participants in the *PARIS SONG* discussion.

Each of the three post-film discussions had over 60 participants, with some tuning in from outside of the Southern/Central NH areas, as well as from those affiliated with other Jewish Federation groups outside of New Hampshire.

One major perk to the virtual model is that it allowed participants to see films they may not have seen otherwise. For example, *Shooting Life* was originally scheduled to screen in Peterborough and Portsmouth. As someone living in Concord, if I were unable to attend in either location, I would have missed out entirely on this compelling film. The virtual component provided much-appreciated flexibility, according to many participants who completed the post-film surveys.

While the pandemic leaves us uncertain of what our Festival may look like moving forward, we are still determined to bring you the 2021 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival next year, which is currently scheduled for May 13-23, 2021!

Please save the date, and know that we cannot wait to see you at the movies again, whether in person or virtually!



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Jewish Journeys

My Conversion Story

By Kerry Hansen

I was born in 1959 to a Roman Catholic father and a United Methodist mother. My father promised to baptize me in the Catholic church. And so, I was. My father had also promised to leave my religious upbringing to my mother, and that was so, as well.

There were many times that I went to Mass on Saturday with my father, but I also needed to attend the United Methodist Church, Sunday school, and all age-appropriate Sunday activities on Sunday, with my mom. I learned all the Bible Stories—Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the Whale, and all of the "Old Testament" stories that were purported to lead to Jesus' birth, life, and death. I was, at the time, devout. For many years, I thought I would grow up to be a minister. I loved G-d! There was only one problem ... and it was a big problem to have, if one is a Christian.

From an early age, I was bothered by the concept of G-d sacrificing his only son to a very brutal death, and the

notion that this was somehow beautiful. Even though I did all that was expected of me—I made my First Communion, I was Confirmed in the United Methodist Church, I read my Bible daily—something about the very specific belief requirement for Christianity did not connect for me.

I thought something was wrong with me. My peers would go to the altar, tears streaming down their faces, in awe of their beliefs. I just didn't get it. I tried. I prayed to G-d faithfully, to help me have this mystical experience, and connect with Christianity. I joined afterschool Bible Clubs. I went to youth groups. And, when older, I church-hopped, thinking another Christian sect was the missing key. I have often joked that I still feel waterlogged from all the baptisms! But with each Baptism, no matter how much I held high hopes to have this mystical, spiritual feeling of connection to G-d ... I instead left the water, each time, feeling emptier than the time before. I felt deeply flawed. I had undying faith in G-d, but after each

failed attempt to connect through Christianity, I felt increasingly spiritually bereft.

By chance, I stumbled on a series of books exploring the Jewish roots of Jesus, and I was immediately drawn in. I wanted to know more. I looked up the webpage of the synagogue in my town and saw that they held Saturday Torah studies. I emailed the Rabbi, and I asked if I could come. His answer was yes.

And right there, from the first moments I walked through those synagogue doors, I knew I'd finally found my "home."

I can't explain the feeling, except to say that it was an inkling that this synagogue—which was Temple Israel, of Dover—was what I had been searching for all my life. Rabbi Sam Seicol was warm and welcoming. He reminded me of a wise Gandalf archetype, who knew all the answers, but delighted in letting you stumble upon both the questions and the answers yourself. He was always smiling. The Torah stories themselves were familiar, yet there was a depth to them that I had never known. How could stories I have heard and read since childhood contain these inner depths?

I began going to every Torah study, every Friday night Shabbat, attending all the Jewish Holidays, learning all that I could about Judaism, and writing countless emails, pouring my heart out to my Rabbi and asking questions. There was a joy in Judaism that was missing from all of my experiences in Christianity. Back in my Christian days, I'd always been taught that all of us were wretched sinners, not worth anything in ourselves, and redeemed only by G-d's love. These Christian prayers always made me angry, because they seemed filled with such self-loathing. In contrast, my experience in Judaism taught me that G-d loves us as we are, and we give thanks every day for all the blessings G-d has given to us from that love. Sure, we make mistakes, but we strive to do better. The story of Hillel teaching the essence of Torah, while a prospective convert stood on one foot, is a perfect example.



Kerry Hansen, JFNH Board Member

"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation of this—go and study it!"

The Siddur, our Mishkan T'Fillah, seemed like it was as a love letter to me. Every Shabbat, Rabbi Sam made the service personal, and spiritual. It seemed like the spoken prayers were his words, not just written prayers in the siddur ... and they contained such joy! Since then, every Rabbi I have met has conveyed this same joyfulness.

Not long into my attending Shabbat services, and going to Torah study, I began to know that, deep down, I was Jewish. I felt this, deep inside myself. A year after I first walked through the Synagogue doors, I went to my Beit Din, and entered the Mikveh in Newton for my formal conversion.

Each step down the Mikveh steps, I felt it.

Each time I immersed and said the blessings, I felt profound spiritual awe.

I was Jewish.

It sounds so cliché, but I felt something deep in my soul click 'complete,' or 'Tov,' that day. I am Jewish! That sense of deep, profound spiritual awe has been with me ever since, and to this day, I continue to learn and grow in Judaism.



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Threads of Yiddishland

By Ollie Elkus, Yiddish translator

Now, more than ever, we are digging letters out of the attic, both literal and figurative ones. Isolation is forced reflection, so it's only natural if quarantine has us thinking of the past. As a translator of Yiddish, I'm always thinking of the past. But more than that, some of us have had more time than usual to contemplate the metaphysical, asking who we are and where we come from. Others have dealt in the plain physical, schlepping boxes around, dusting off photo albums, having finally had a chance to dig through these unexamined family keepsakes that clutter the caverns of our homes.

Recently, it was my pleasure to receive a relic of such excavation. It was a letter dated June 14, 1939, which told the story of Breyndl, our protagonist, who was, *nebekh*, very sick. In her Russian-inflected Yiddish, she told of her harrowing journey from Horodok to Pinsk by "parakhod" (Russian: steamship) and from Pinsk to a sanitarium in Otwock. After her sons Noah and Velvl spent every last cent they had, she turned to her brother in Detroit, in the form of this letter, asking that he "not forget his dear older sister," and "save her from the brink of death." Tragically, Breyndl never could have anticipated the German invasion of Poland, which would begin a mere two months, two weeks, and four days from the date of that letter. Such micro-

histories as these are casually tucked away, just as this one was, in attics and basements the country over, waiting to be translated, in order for their story to be told.

Now, you could say this is nothing particular to Yiddish, and that loads of immigrant families must have letters tucked away some place which are written in German, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, and so on. You'd be right—but also very wrong. Perhaps I'm biased, but I think Yiddish is special. You see, the Germans left their German behind in Germany, and the Italians left behind Italian in Italy, and the Jews left behind Yiddish in... well, I suppose we just left it behind, then, didn't we?

The point, here, being that Yiddish doesn't have the infrastructure that most other languages have. There is no nation to protect it, nor an organization to define it. Due to this predicament, there was an attempt at standardization in the 1920s, which was embraced by some, but as you can imagine, not by all. As the saying goes, "Two Jews, three opinions." And even if it had been embraced by all, an attempt at standardization in the 1920s would've been quite late, considering written Yiddish dates back to the thirteenth century. This means, although there are conventions, there is no standardized spelling for anything in published—much less hand-written—Yiddish. To add insult to injury, although Yiddish uses the Hebrew

alphabet, the "cursive" script found in Yiddish letters written in the 19th and 20th centuries is not the same script employed by modern or ancient Hebrew. You can imagine such idiosyncrasies make the translation of Yiddish letters much more difficult, but anything worthwhile is hard, and the peculiarity of Yiddish merely serves to make its translation all the more important.

Yiddish has "localisms." These are words used by Yiddish speakers in some areas of Europe, and not in others. Breyndl's Yiddish had elements of Russian, but of course, that wouldn't be the case for a Yiddish speaker in Romania. Localisms are an intrinsic part of the language we find in these letters, and due to the lack of infrastructure for the language, sometimes these letters are all we have. So, when a letter degrades, it's sad enough that a story is lost. However, as is the case with Yiddish, a piece of the language—a piece of the culture—is lost, as well.

So, how did we get here? Well, since the "golden age" of secular Yiddish culture in the twenties, assimilation has moved quickly—exponentially, even. Jews who made the decision not to raise their children in Yiddish have lived to see the Yiddish world unravel, and some with remorse or deep regret about that. In this way, I found learning Yiddish could be a frustrating task. There was even a sort of indignation about it.

Everything about Yiddish still felt so familiar and so natural to me, yet at the same time, I could feel it slipping away.

So, to grab hold of it before it's too far gone, I rummage through poetry and collections of short stories, trying to weave together the threads of *Yiddishland* to create the fullest portrait of this evasive place, like rummaging through old letters in the attic, trying to piece together family history. I do this because I believe if we understand Yiddish, we understand our past, and—without exaggeration—we understand ourselves.

And that's what interests us about these old family keepsakes, is it not? It's a connection to the past, which forms a larger sense of self. A self that begins not with our birth, but with everything that came before us, which happens to include bubbe's music box, and zeyde's rubber ducky. And that's why we hold on to them, even if we don't display them on the mantle.

In the case that it's not a music box, or a rubber ducky, and it happens to be a Yiddish letter, or a postcard, or perhaps a newspaper clipping, I do hope you'll drop me a line.

Oliver "Ollie" Elkus is a Yiddish translator currently under fellowship with the Yiddish Book Center. Ollie likes to bake bread, play drums, and drink tea. For translation requests he can be reached at ollieelkus@gmail.com. For more info, his website is www.ohelkustranslations.com.

The IDF Is Much More Than an Army

By Richard England

The Israeli Defense Forces are widely known for their military prowess. We need to remember, however, that the IDF is much more than a potent defender of Israel's territory and civilians. Israel's military has played an important role in forming the national identity and in building the country's economy and social institutions. Immigrants to Israel have come from countries as culturally diverse as Poland, Morocco, Ethiopia, and India. Although these immigrants shared a commitment to Zionism, most did not speak modern Hebrew when they arrived. Some were deeply religious, whereas others were fervently secular.

Israel's military conscription brings together young men and women who are observant and nonreligious, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi, sabras (Israeli born) and recent immigrants, and both the affluent

and disadvantaged. The IDF provides Hebrew instruction for new arrivals from Russia, Ethiopia, and other parts of the Diaspora. Disadvantaged youth receive remedial math and reading instruction. As part of their military training, recruits attend seminars on Jewish history and on the history, geography, and environment of Israel. As the Jewish Agency for Israel has concluded, "The Israeli army is...a school for national identity and unity."

IDF service has also made a substantial contribution to development of the Israeli economy during the past 70 years. Many draftees learn technical skills that serve them well in the job market after several years of military service. For those who serve in combat units, the transition to civilian employment can be more difficult. As a result, the IDF now offers combat soldiers several months of training in cybersecurity and other technical fields as their three years of

service draw to a close.

There is also a connection between IDF service and Israel's dynamic high-tech sector. Junior officers are rewarded for flexibility and initiative – traits that encourage innovation. The top 1 percent of high school students are invited to join Academic Reserve units of the IDF. Before and during service in these elite units, young Israelis receive university training in science, engineering, computer science or Middle East studies. Veterans of these units have launched some of the startup ventures for which Israel has become famous.

Another important role of the IDF has been its promotion of inclusiveness in Israeli society. Since 1999, there have been combat units in which haredi (ultra-Orthodox) volunteers can serve while remaining observant. Many of these recruits had no work experience prior to their IDF service but 88% of the haredi

veterans have integrated into the labor market. Until the late 1990s, there were no women in combat units. Today most combat positions (pilots and special forces, for example) are open to women. The IDF has also found a place for young men and women with special needs. Unit 9900, for example, is an intelligence team that relies on the acute visual skills of those on the autism spectrum to interpret satellite images. During the recent pandemic, Prime Minister Netanyahu ordered the IDF to take responsibility for ensuring that seniors and other vulnerable members of society receive food and medicine in their homes. These and other fascinating examples demonstrate that today's IDF continues to be much more than an army.

Richard England is a retired educator who lives in Durham. He loves to visit and learn more about Israel.



BBYO Offering \$3,000 Travel Vouchers to Jewish Teens to Journey to Israel in Summer 2021

New vouchers, enhanced program offerings, flexible dates, and risk-free registration make summer travel to Israel with BBYO more accessible than ever before

WASHINGTON, DC—For teens considering a summer program in Israel, 2021 is the year to embark and BBYO is here to make it happen. BBYO is thrilled to announce a limited number of \$3,000 travel vouchers open to Jewish teens in North America regardless of need. With a 60+ year track record of delivering one-of-a-kind program options and experiences in Israel, BBYO is excited to provide even more teens with the opportunity to experience Israel next summer with the availability of \$3,000 *RootOne* travel vouchers. There has never been a better time to make the dream of exploring Israel a reality for Jewish teens.

Beyond increasing the affordability of summer travel to Israel, BBYO has enhanced and expanded its offerings for 2021, with programs, flexibility, and dates

to fit any interest and schedule. Whether teens want to hike through desert canyons, swim in the Mediterranean, explore Israeli society and culture, or build their own electives-based experience, BBYO offers something for everyone with a rich and varied summer 2021 program lineup. And to allay any concerns families might have about planning ahead for next summer in an uncertain environment, registration for BBYO summer programs is totally risk-free, with deposits fully refundable through March 2, 2021.

“Now more than ever, teens need programs that allow them to unwind, explore, get outdoors, have fun, and recharge,” said Robyn Judelsohn, Senior Vice President of Immersive

Experiences at BBYO. “Israel as a backdrop not only offers all of this, but also allows teens to connect with their heritage and their peers—things so needed amid the current upheaval in their lives. With the variety of programs we offer, the availability of \$3,000 vouchers, and risk-free refundable, we

expect our Israel travel programs to fill up very quickly for next summer.”

The *RootOne* Initiative is seeded through the generosity of The Marcus Foundation, and is powered by The Jewish Education Project. *RootOne* travel vouchers may also be applied to opportunities that connect a BBYO program in Israel with other BBYO travel and leadership experiences in Europe and North America, for an even fuller summer of exploration. Furthermore, vouchers may be combined with need-based scholarships and community funds to help defray the cost of travel even further for families.

A complete overview of BBYO’s 2021 Israel travel programs and voucher information can be found at bbyopassport.org/israel-2021/.

About BBYO:

BBYO is the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. For more than 95 years, BBYO’s leadership programs the Aleph

Zadik Aleph (AZA, high school fraternity) and the B’nai B’rith Girls (BBG, high school sorority) have been providing exceptional leadership programs and identity enrichment experiences, shaping the confidence and character of more than 400,000 alumni who are among the most prominent figures in business, politics, academia, the arts, and Jewish communal life. Now, BBYO’s network of Jewish teens, alumni, parents, volunteers, and philanthropists serves as the Jewish community’s most valuable platform for delivering to the post Bar/Bat Mitzvah audience fun, meaningful, and affordable experiences. With year-round activities in hundreds of local communities and inspiring world-wide travel experiences, BBYO’s broad program menu enables teens to explore areas of leadership, service, civic engagement, Israel education, and Jewish values.

BBYO Immersives LLC represents BBYO’s groundbreaking initiative for Jewish travel and service-learning experiences.

Hadassah Volunteers in the Fight Against COVID-19

By Michele Bank

At a time when it seems that the entire world is in need of healing, Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem is providing extraordinary patient care to victims of COVID-19 in Israel, searching for treatments and cures, and sharing its pioneering protocols with countries around the globe. Here at home in the US, with all in-person national and local Hadassah events cancelled, Hadassah volunteers throughout the country are working virtually to keep everyone informed, engaged, and inspired.

Hadassah@home offers a myriad of online webinars and podcasts for you to view at home. Go to Hadassah.org and enter podcasts or webinars in the box on the upper left of the page, and click ENTER. One webinar is, “Treasures of the Hadassah Archives: A Virtual Tour of the Hadassah Collection.” This is a

fascinating online program hosted by Melanie Meyers, Director of Collections and Engagement at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York City. Seen from inside the archives, and by slideshow, you will view rare documents, photos and artifacts. Ms. Meyers describes the background of this extensive collection that tell the full story of Hadassah’s history. Included are children’s art projects from pre-State Israel, an “Esther doll” contest prize, a recorded speech from John F. Kennedy to Hadassah members in 1963, vintage cookbooks and more.

On October 22 at 7:30 PM, National Hadassah’s virtual book club, “One Book, One Hadassah”, will be meeting on Zoom to discuss *Other People’s Pets* by R.L. Maizes. You can sign up to join on the Hadassah website.

For more information about Hadassah, please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com.

America’s First Israeli Art Lending Library Launched at Northeastern University

BOSTON, MA—At a time when social distancing will limit student trips to Israel and in-person campus programming, Northeastern University Hillel, the Consulate General of Israel to New England and Returning the Sparks announces the launch of the first-ever Israeli Art Lending Library (IALL).

The innovative public-private partnership will be housed at Northeastern University, and it will allow students the opportunity to bring a piece of Israeli art back to their dorm rooms for the year. Art lending libraries exist at several universities, including Harvard University, the University of Chicago, and the University of California, Berkeley, however this is the first art lending library to showcase Israeli artists.

“Although Zoom events can do a lot, they can’t replace live events and tactile experiences,” stated Gilad Skolnick, Executive Director of Northeastern University Hillel. “There’s a reason why we are willing to spend so much to go to Broadway or Fenway Park, when it’s free and

so much easier to see much of the same on TV. Tangible events and things resonate in a different way. We’re wired for experience. The genius of this art lending library is that it brings a tangible piece of Israel—something personal and uplifting that the student selects – directly to them for daily enjoyment.”

“I listened this spring as foundations shared concerns that short-term immersive Israel trips for college students stood to be compromised for the Fall of 2020, without a clear alternative, due to the need for COVID-19 social distancing,” shared Arinne Braverman, Executive Director of Returning the Sparks, a non-profit which helps connect Jews with Judaism and Israel. “I figured if we couldn’t bring students on short trips to Israel and we couldn’t educate through in-person events, we’d bring a piece of Israel home to students and have the process itself be educational, while incorporating their personal preferences. It would be great to see other campuses launch Israel art

Israeli Art continued on next page

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Israeli Art *continued from page 16*

lending libraries as well,” added Braverman who conceived of and spearheaded the IALL initiative.

The IALL website (IsraelArtNU.com) provides a social distancing-friendly means for selecting Israeli art, while granting an opportunity for students to learn more about the art’s subject and origin from the safety of one’s own dorm.

Framed Israeli prints, photographs, and original pieces were curated based on feedback Northeastern University Hillel received from student leader focus groups this summer. The selections represent Israel’s diverse society, and include selections by Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and LGBTQ Israelis, as well as artists with disabilities.

“Israeli society is a mix of different cultural backgrounds and identities, and as an innovative democracy with a rich history, it produces a variety of messages that reflect the diversity of perspectives, experiences and thinking of its people. We are glad to be able to show a little piece of our country through the intimate lens of art,” added Daniel Agranov, Deputy Consul General of Israel to New England. “IALL allows us to actively support a diverse array of Israeli artists during a challenging global economy, while providing students with resources to learn more about our country through related articles and maps.”

Some of the art that will be available include:

“Serenity” by Benjamin S. Tagger: Tagger’s art represents him as a gay young architect, playing with and exploring the lines between masculinity, geographic

boundaries, colors, and his obsession with maps. According to the artist, a symbolic description of space, representing the world in an abstract manner, a map is never neutral.

“Face” by an anonymous Yemin Orde youth artist: Yemin Orde Youth Village is a home, school and safe haven for 430 at-risk youth from around the world. With the help of Yemin Orde’s team of dedicated educators and professionals, plus its successful ‘Village Way’ methodology and its popular art therapy program, fragile youth receive a quality education and heal in a supportive and loving environment that allows them to gain confidence, self-esteem, grow and thrive.

“Enid” by Shimon Wanda: Wanda is a multi-disciplinary contemporary Ethiopian Israeli artist from Kiryat Haim. He began drawing at a very young age as a self-taught artist who believes in testing the limits and exploring various techniques.

“Bride from Yemen” by Shai Yossef: Yossef was born in Rosh Ha’ain and often uses his art to engage in social issues. He likes to “sculpt” his artworks on canvas, and he is known for his oil paintings which are influenced by social values and the Bible.

“Moving into my freshman dorm was nerve racking enough, and having completely bare walls didn’t help,” stated Northeastern student, Maya Michalewicz. “This art lending program will be a great way to both connect students to their Jewish homes, and bring color and art to their new homes! I’m excited for this Israeli art program to begin, and to decorate the college homes of so many students, and bring the community together!”

Recent Events

Swastika Painted on Raymond High School Sign

By Tony Schinella

This article first appeared in Patch on August 24 and is reprinted with their permission.

RAYMOND, NH — Police in nearby Raymond are investigating a vandalism incident involving a Nazi symbol painted on a sign at the high school Monday.

A Swastika was found around 6 a.m. on a sign near the entrance of the school by facilities staffers at the school who removed the sign and then, contacted police. Both police and the school district have investigations underway.

The swastika, a hate symbol associated

with antisemitism worldwide, noted Steve Woodward, the principal of the school.

“Hate speech is not tolerated in the Raymond School District,” he said. “Our mission is to ensure that our students, faculty and staff have a safe, welcome, and nurturing educational community, and we will not stand for hatred and intolerance.”

Tina McCoy, the superintendent of the school district, intends to reach out to the Anti-Defamation League of New England, to draw upon its nationally-recognized guidance and resources on how best respond to and prevent acts of hatred and antisemitism in town.

Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

A Bend in the Stars, by Rachel Barenbaum

Such a beautifully written novel. Rachel Barenbaum has created a version of the world in Russia, at the time of the eclipse, that is completely believable. So many times, while reading the book, I paused to double check a name or even the cover of the book to remind myself that it was all fiction, and not really based on a real person of history.

This is a story of a young Russian Jew, who is working on the theory of relativity at the same time that Einstein is developing his theory. This is a story of Russia on the brink of war. This is a story about Vanya and Miri, two Jewish siblings living with their grandmother after the death of their parents in an accident. Their grandmother, who escaped from Russian pogroms against Jews, has brought these siblings up, teaching them to watch their back and be wary at all times. Now, with the start of the war in 1914, they are again up against prejudice and are hoping to escape to America. This is also a love story, about how one’s love for another is stronger than the outside forces of evil.

Vanya is studying the science of relativity at the university, and realizes that he is close to beating Einstein, if he can only get to see the eclipse firsthand and have a photograph of the event. With this information, he has been invited to bring his family to Harvard to teach. It will be his way of helping his family escape the horrors of Russia.

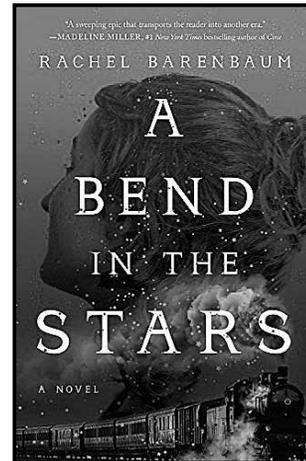
Miri is also an exceptional student. She has been given the education to become a doctor, something extremely unheard of

in Russia in 1914. When she realizes her brother’s fate is in jeopardy—as he travels to see the eclipse—she follows him to warn him.

Vanya travels with Miri’s fiancé, and together, they fight their way across the country toward this unusual goal. Miri sets out to follow them, accompanied by a wounded Jewish soldier who has escaped his unit. She helped save his life, medically, and he wants to return the favor by protecting her as she travels. There is intrigue, as they defy the odds against soldiers and others willing to sell out a Jew for money. There is romance, and the race against the clock and time.

While reading this terrific novel, you also learn about relativity, the bending of light, and the scientific understanding and misconceptions of that era, in regard to telling time, clocks, and how time is set. Today, when we look at a clock, we know that all across the world, everyone is looking at the same clock: back then, though, time could be off by minutes from place to place, or country to country.

Rachel is a prolific writer and reviewer for the LA Review of Books, the Tel Aviv Review of Books and Dead Darlings. She is an Honorary Research Associate at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, and a graduate of GrubStreet’s Novel Incubator. A Bend in the Stars, her debut novel, has been named a New York Times Summer Reading Selection and a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. It is also a Boston Globe Bestseller. Rachel’s second novel, Atomic Anna, will be forthcoming from Grand Central, in 2022.



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JFNH Tributes

Received by August 10, 2020

Campaign

Dr. Lessa Ann Brill and Mr. John Wallace in memory of Leon, Phyllis and Howard Brill

Irma and Gary Wallin Young Leadership Fund

Edward Carleton in memory of Irma Wallin

Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

From Norm and Andy Kushner for the birth of their granddaughter Zoey Paige Kushner

From Norm and Andy Kushner wishing Rabbi Beth Davidson a speedy recovery

Arlene Levy Fishbein and Leon Cornell to Norm and Andy Kushner on the birth of their granddaughter Zoey Paige Kushner

Bernice Taube on the birth of Norm and Andy's granddaughter Zoey Paige Kushner

Simchas

New! B'nai mitzvah, engagement, wedding or new baby in the family? Share your happiness with the community with a notice in the *Reporter's* new *Simchas* section. Your \$36 payment will support JFNH's nonprofit mission. Submit a short notice and photo to thereporter@jewishnh.org or JFNH, 273 South River Road, Unite #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

When submitting a Letter to the Editor, please include your name, town of residence, and contact information. Letters to the Editor must be under 300 words in length to be considered for publication. Send your letter by email to the reporter@jewishnh.org with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

Sending a tribute card from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is one of the best ways to honor someone for any *simcha*, e.g. birthday, anniversary, bar/bat mitzvah. It is also the perfect way to say "Thank you" or to send your condolences.

Your JFNH tribute card serves double duty by helping to support the vital programs serving the New Hampshire Jewish Community.

All tributes will be listed in *The Reporter*.

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- Friends of the Reporter
- NH Jewish Film Festival
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- Senior Programs
- Social Services
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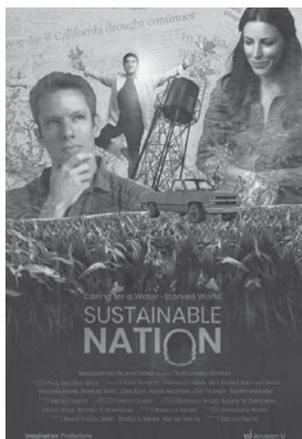
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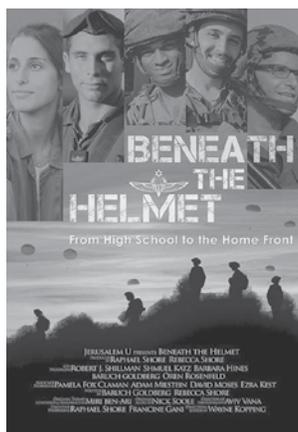
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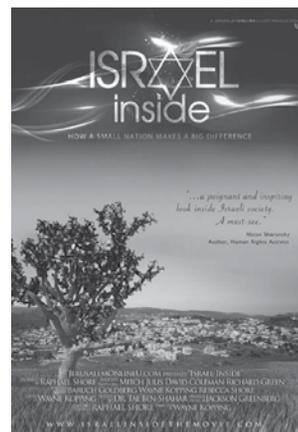
Director:
Micah Smith
Documentary
2019, Israel
60 minutes
Hebrew with
English subtitles

Sustainable Nation
Thursday, October 15, 6:00 PM
Post film discussion with Producer/Writer,
Rebecca Shore on Sunday, October 18, 2:00 PM
Sustainable Nation, a compelling documentary, follows
three individuals who are bringing innovative and
sustainable water solutions developed in Israel to an
increasingly thirsty planet.



Director:
Wayne Kopping
Documentary/Drama
2014, Israel
80 Minutes
English, Hebrew

**Beneath the Helmut: From High School
to the Home Front**
Thursday, November 12, 6:00 PM
Post film discussion /time scheduled TBA
Sunday, November 15
Beneath the Helmut: From High School to the Home Front
is a coming-of-age story. The film highlights five Israeli
high school graduates who are drafted into the army to
defend their country. Appeals to audiences of all ages, in
particular teenagers and young adults.



Director:
Wayne Kopping
Documentary
2011, Israel
55 Minutes
English

**Israel Inside: How a Small Nation
Makes a Big Difference**
Thursday, December 17, 6:00 PM
Post film discussion/time scheduled TBA
Sunday, December 20
*Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big
Difference*, focuses on the human side behind Israel's
accomplishments, emphasizing the core character
traits and deep-seated values that enable Israelis
to succeed.

Film series is FREE.
Suggested donation
of \$18 supports JFNH
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FREE Israel Film Series

All films premiere on Thursday afternoons at 6:00 PM and are available for streaming for 72 hours.
ZOOM post film discussions are scheduled on Sunday afternoons, October 18, November 15, and December 20, 2020.
The link and password for each film and ZOOM event link will be sent to all registered attendees by email by 4:00 PM
on the (Thursday) streaming dates for each virtual film and the post film discussion event.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ISRAEL FILM SERIES.

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